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SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/PPC, AND WHA/CEN

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KCOR](#) [KJUS](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: NO DOUBLE "DIP" PING: SURPRISING RESULTS FOR SOME
DIPUTADOS SEEKING REELECTION

1. With the general election approaching in the fall, a review of the results of Honduras' February primary elections tells an interesting story about Diputados (members of Congress) seeking reelection to the National Congress. 86 current Diputados (46 from the Nationalist Party (PN) and 40 from the Liberal Party (PL)) participated in the primary election cycle. Of those, some of both parties' biggest names were defeated in the primaries. Others will not be returning to the National Congress due to a Honduran law that prevents current legislators from keeping their positions while running for national office.

2. Eight very well-known Diputados failed to win their respective primaries: Eduardo Kafati (PL), Rolando Cardenas Paz (PL), Maximilio Rosas Gamero (PL), Rodrigo Castillo Aguilar (PL), Oswaldo Ramos Soto (PN), Angelo Botazzi Suarez (PN), Jorge Carranza Diaz (PN), and Marlon Pascua Cerrato (PN). 7 other big-name Diputados forfeited their eligibility to be reelected by running for president or vice president, including PN presidential nominee Porfirio "Pepe" Lobo. The others are: Rafael Pineda Ponce (PL), Jorge Arturo Reina (PL), Jaime Rosenthal Oliva (PL), Ramon Villeda Bermudez (PL), and Gilberto Goldstein (PN).

3. COMMENT: Several of the Diputados who lost eligibility by running for national office are currently appealing the law that bans them from re-election to the National Congress. Post is carefully watching to see if some of these party faithful try to make it on to the ballot through less than above-board maneuvering. If these legislative giants are able to manipulate the reformed political process and gain access to this fall's ballot, the new reforms in the election process will have been for naught. In that case, the only winner in the next election cycle will be the corrupt cycle of Honduran politics. The losers will be the Honduran people, the rule of law, and democracy and transparency in government. END COMMENT.
Palmer